

Honolulu Star-Bulletin

RILEY H. ALLEN - - - - - EDITOR

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1914.

Every civil and wasteful habit draws upon our strength and resources without making any proper return. On the other hand, every task faithfully done, every responsibility manfully borne in the path of duty, steadies us, like well-bestowed ballast. There are loads that help as well as loads that hinder. The first we should cheerfully take up, and the latter resolutely cast off.—Anonymous.

A BELIEVER IN ARBITRATION.

Judge Elbert H. Gary, chairman of the board of directors of the United States Steel Corporation, is not likely to be accused of being an idealist or a sentimentalist. And yet he believes in arbitration and inferentially believes in universal peace.

In an address recently before the American Iron and Steel Institute, Judge Gary said of the present war:

"The nation that wins will surely lose, although it would seem at first blush a paradox. The enormous cost and the long continued suffering on the part of the survivors will not be fully covered by any success or glory or indemnity. Before now every participant in the contest must realize that it would have been better to have settled, if possible, all the existing differences, real or imaginary, on a basis approved by some competent and impartial tribunal. The sums expended and to be expended by the different nations would have greatly extended their opportunities for success and happiness if wisely used for those purposes. Personally, I believe in a positive and binding agreement between all nations for the final settlement by arbitration of all international disputes by a competent and impartial tribunal, and for the enforcement of decisions by the nations not personally involved in the question at issue. Such an agreement could be made, such a tribunal could be permanently established and such an enforcement made practical if the nations were so disposed. * * * I hope the time will come, even though not in my time, when wars and rumors of wars will cease altogether."

Clearly Judge Gary is not a member of David Starr Jordan's "war trust."

THE CITY ENGINEER.

In another column a correspondent suggests that before a change be made in the city engineer's office by the incoming Republican administration, an impartial investigation be conducted of the present engineering department under Mr. Wall. That is right along the line this paper discussed yesterday in commenting upon Mr. J. L. Young's proposal that the Hawaiian Engineering Association take the lead in local engineering matters. The public would certainly be glad to hear what a non-partisan and impartial committee of engineers would say regarding the work of Engineer Wall as compared with that of his predecessor, Engineer Whitehouse. The inquiry would be absolutely proper because Mr. Whitehouse is a candidate for the position now held by Mr. Wall. From several sources recently there have come testimonials as to the good work done by the present engineer.

SERBIA'S ACHIEVEMENT.

Servia's achievement in driving the Austrians out of Belgrade once more emphasizes the sterling fighting qualities of the Serb army. It has just emerged from two exhausting campaigns—the first Balkan war and the succeeding war against Bulgaria, and it was attacked by picked corps of the Austrian army. But the Austrians have lost hugely in their Serbian campaign and gained little except bitter experience.

There is a shortage of officers in the Serbian army, due not only to the severe losses sustained in the earlier battles of the campaign, but also to the losses of the two Balkan wars. The gaps have proved a source of considerable embarrassment to the army chiefs, and a number of youthful cadets from the military college have now been given commissions and sent to the front.

Another matter of serious concern in army circles is the difficulty of caring properly for the wounded, who are being sent into the interior towns as rapidly as possible. Although there are a number of Red Cross units from for-

serious shortage of drugs and of surgical and hygienic appliances.

The Servians are fighting to the limit of their abilities. It will not be surprising if they cannot carry an offensive campaign into Austria.

PUNISHING RUSSIANS WHO FAIL.

An illustration of the prompt and inexorable punishment visited on the military leaders who fail comes from the Russian border, where the fighting is particularly ruthless. It has already been reported that General Rennenkampf has been relieved from command of the Russian armies on the border because of failure to bring up reinforcements at a time when the Russians had surrounded the Germans. The Germans found a weak spot in the cordon and hewed their way out with the bayonet. Now Polish papers are printing the news that another Russian general implicated in the failure to bring up reinforcements has been treated even more severely. Gen. von Krause, commanding a large force south of Lodz, did not bring up his men quickly enough. He was court-martialed and shot, it being alleged that he was in sympathy with the Germans. Von Krause is reported to have German blood in his veins.

Surgeon-general Blue's recommendation to Congress that a national leprosarium be established may revive the movement to shove the proposed institution upon Hawaii. The incipient plans for such a move were nipped in the bud a few months ago, thanks very largely to the vigilance of former Governor Frear, then in Washington. He simply forwarded to Hawaii copies of the bills as well as the report of the house debate. Hawaii made a prompt protest. It will be well to keep an eye open for further attempts to send mainland lepers here.

The figures published this morning regarding the cost of city autos were given in this paper during the fall campaign. The inordinate expense of carrying the city officials around in municipal cars was one of the campaign arguments that helped knock out the Democratic administration.

For thoughtful reasoning on American neutrality in the present world-crisis, read the article by Dr. E. S. Goodhue on Page 26 today. Dr. Goodhue does not believe in war, neither does he believe in American partisanship with either side engaged in the war.

There were coast guards in the English seaside towns bombarded by the Germans—and it seems that the bombardment was therefore covered by the Hague convention. For self-protection perhaps the coast guards should be withdrawn.

"Edison Jokes Over Loss of \$2,000,000," said a headline after the big electric plant fire last week. So can we—and we did the next day.

A platform speaker likens Roosevelt to Moses, perhaps thinking of the quotation concerning "the bull rushes."

The resumption of work at Pearl Harbor is one guarantee of prosperity for Honolulu during the next few years.

France is financially prepared for a long war—meaning that she can borrow enough to see her through.

What the Allies seem to be curious about is the nature of what Count Zeppelin has up his sleeve.

Is it really true that Honolulu Republicans are congenitally more efficient than Democrats?

It's a long way to Egypt and Morocco, but Britain and France were there for the annexation.

English seaside towns are not likely to be popular resorts for the next few months.

"See Hawaii Next" is the slogan to give President Wilson.

"Chief Executive" Carranza executes rather indiscriminately.

Let's hope Santa Claus is able to stay neutral a week longer.

Letters OF THE WEEK

(The Star-Bulletin invites free and frank discussion in this column on all legitimate subjects of current interest. Communications are constantly received to which no signature is attached. This paper will treat as confidential signatures to letters if the writers so desire, but cannot give space for anonymous communications.)

DENIES TRUTH OF COL. MCCARTHY'S STATEMENT

Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin.
Sir: The statement made by Col. C. J. McCarthy, the territorial treasurer, in the interview which appeared in your issue of yesterday, referring to my recent report to the Chamber of Commerce on the tax office, in which he stated that "the bulk of it was lifted from a tax report prepared for Governor Frear in 1908 and published in pamphlet form at that time" is absolutely untrue.

I did make reference in my report to the findings of the commission authorized by the legislature in 1907 to thoroughly investigate the territorial tax laws, for which I gave the commission credit. I referred to these findings as to "cash value" of real estate and assessment of leasehold interests as a basis for my review of the local tax situation. I collaborated with the tax assessor fully on these matters, whose views I also quoted in my report. Of my twelve-page typewritten report, as above, my references to the 1907 commission covered, possibly, a page.

If we are even to obtain the much needed efficiency and economy in our territorial and county affairs, we must first insist on an intelligent and fair-minded consideration of facts, and not attempt to defend past and present delinquencies by showing a spirit of carping criticism.

(Signed) H. GOODING FIELD.

TREATMENT OF GERMAN PRISONERS.

Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin.
Sir:—It has been mentioned some time ago in one of the local papers that the German prisoners in England were given such an excellent treatment.

After the experiences my countrymen had in English colonies such as Hongkong, Singapore, etc., this news rather surprised and puzzled me and I have endeavored to obtain some German report on such treatment.

The following is a translation from No. 45, page 796, of the "Allgemeine Rundschau" (General Review), dated November 7 and published at Munich, Bavaria, and as your paper has been impartial enough to refer to both sides I trust you will be good enough to publish the aforementioned article.

Thanking you in anticipation and enclosing my card,
Yours faithfully,
J. M. TREATMENT OF GERMAN PRISONERS BY AN ENGLISH CONCENTRATION CAMP.

In the Hamburger Fremdenblatt, a Hamburg man, Mr. Emil Seika, 15, Kubberg, reports of the infamous treatment of imprisoned German prisoners by the English. This gentleman had left the Brazil with a great many other Germans on a Dutch steamer, but was captured and imprisoned at Newbury camp.

Later on, as he was 60 years of age, through the good offices of the American ambassador in London he was released.

The Germans from Brazil, altogether 1340, are imprisoned in a stable for race horses, eight to 10 lying together in a box on old straw. They each received two thin rugs, nothing else; they have no table and nothing to sit on. Under the roof the unheated stable has holes for ventilation, moreover there are no means of lighting the premises.

After 5 o'clock p. m. everybody has to lie down on the straw. The prisoners have to cook their meals themselves in the open.

The stove consists of a hole in the ground and two rows of bricks with four iron kettles without a cover. The tea is poured through old bags and is absolutely dirty.

The water-gruel with a little addition of fat contains perhaps a cubic inch of meat for each prisoner. The whole daily diet consists of a cup of tea with a slice of dry bread at 7 a. m., a plate of watery soup with two potatoes and a slice of dry bread at noon and again tea and dry bread at night.

As even of this "wholesome" food there is very often not enough complaints have been lodged by the prisoners with the result that the complainants were put into jail for three days with nothing to exist on but water and bread.

The protests of two Germans were "punished" with three days' close arrest, two weeks solitary cell and nine months' forfeiture.

Amongst the prisoners there are 14 German physicians who have created

a kind of organization amongst their fellow prisoners.

For the treatment of the sick they were refused any medicine, even cotton and carbol. All protests to the British government were ignored.

In letters to their people at home nothing is to be given but information about their personal state of health. Enormous prices have to be paid for everything the prisoners wish to buy for themselves.

The English military authorities have let on lease the canteens of all concentration camps at a high rate to some London contractors.

On account of the insufficient nourishment the German physicians are afraid that hunger-typus will break out amongst the prisoners.

CHANGING THE TIME.

Honolulu, T. H., Dec. 17.
Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin.

Sir: That hokus-pokus idea with regard to setting the clock ahead seems to have vanished from the daily news. Any individual who grapples with time and labor needs no further argument to convince him or her to the realization that we are getting up early enough. These dark mornings is proof enough to the most skeptical, and perhaps that is why they are not pushing the thing further at this time. My idea of the thing is, if these 8 o'clock boys want to start at 7 why should they worry about the workers, as that is generally not their attitude.

If they are so awful generous I think they should prefer slumbering when we most feel like it.

Any entertainment, public or otherwise, keeps people out late at night, and it is only fair that we stand by what we have now and avoid a mixture in the time of day to ourselves and others.

Yours truly,
JACK.

AS TO UKULELES.

Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin.
Sir: In your society columns in your paper dated December 8 you publish a letter extracted from the San Francisco News Letter, same being enclosed.

Upon careful investigation you will find that these statements are absolutely incorrect. In the first place, there is no such instrument as the Keech ukulele in Hawaii. In the second place, there is no ukulele factory in Honolulu operated by the Keech brothers. In the third place, Hawaii has not yet got to the stage of having the largest ukulele factory in the world.

It is a well known fact that the ukulele is the standard and the one extensively advertised and used through the state of California.

Kindly accept this as a correction. Thanking you in advance for your valuable space, I remain,
Yours respectfully,
UKULELE ENTHUSIAST.

THE CITY ENGINEER.

Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin.

Sir: I see by the daily papers that the party lately placed in power by the voters proposes to make a clean sweep in all jobs, putting in Republicans where Democrats now reside. Where there has been a lack of efficiency I believe the party is fully justified in appointing a Republican. But the voters did not elect a Republican board of supervisors simply to substitute Democrats for Republicans in all positions. Where a man has made good he should not be removed. For the past two or three months previous to the election our papers were full of criticism of the lack of efficiency in road construction during the Democratic administration of affairs. The party in power for two years was blamed for wholesale waste of funds in road construction. Up to July last, a Republican held the position of county engineer. For a year and a half, under Democratic administration, Mr. Whitehouse was county engineer. Was everything satisfactory under his administration? Was it only when a change was brought about just three months or four prior to the election that inefficiency in this department was discovered? I mention this because it is now proposed to change again and substitute Mr. Whitehouse for Mr. Wall. I do not pretend to know which engineer was the better in road construction. But I cannot help recalling the "kicks" made during the campaign against the waste of money in road construction during the Democratic administration. I am a Republican, and I believe there is much to condemn, especially in the construction of the belt road in Koolau at \$16,000 per mile, which has gone to pieces. But, would it not be well to go slow in changing back to the very man who was in charge of this branch of the public service under the Democratic administration? Why not "look into" road construction

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Aloha Lane, King Street 2 bedrooms 17.00

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PERSONALITIES

J. D. PARIS left yesterday in the steamer Mauna Loa.

J. N. S. WILLIAMS was numbered with the returning passengers from Maui in the steamer Kilauea.

W. H. C. CAMPBELL is in the city on a business mission. He will return to Hawaii in charge of an excursion party to arrive at the port in the Matson steamer Wilhelmina.

E. W. CONGDON, who has spent some weeks in the islands in the management of several vaudeville companies, returned to the mainland today in the Oceanic liner Sierra.

MR. and MRS. ERNEST KAAI were numbered among the Hawaiian singers and musicians to depart for San Diego today in the steamer Sierra. They have a concession at the San Diego exposition.

J. W. BAINS, a former newspaper man who for the past two years has been identified with the Hilo railway, is an arrival in this city in the steamer Kilauea. Mr. Bains, with Mrs. Bains and three children, will make his home in this city.

MRS. JOHN A. McCANDLESS sailed on the Matsonia for Philadelphia, where she will attend her son, James McCandleless, who was recently injured in a serious auto accident. Late news says that very fortunately the young man will recover entirely from his injuries.

GEORGE L. VAN NESS, formerly with the U. S. public health service at St. Louis, Mo., is an arrival in this city to take up his duties with the local department under the direction of Dr. F. E. Trotter. He takes over the duties recently relinquished by Frank A. Stump, who has been transferred to the federal service at Boston, Mass.

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